

**Application No.: 10/686,811****Docket No.: 2038-301****AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A packaged assembly of disposable diapers, comprising a package formed of a flexible sheet substantially in a rectangular hexahedron having first through sixth surfaces, each pair of said surfaces adjacent to each other being substantially orthogonal to each other; and

a plurality of pull-on disposable diapers, each of said diapers including front and rear waist regions opposed to and connected with each other along transverse opposite lateral portions extending in a longitudinal direction in a vicinity of edges thereof so as to form a waist-hole and a pair of leg-holes, and each of said diapers having a waist's end portion forming said waist-hole and a crotch region's bottom lying below said leg-holes;

wherein

said plurality of diapers are compactly packed within said package so that said plurality of disposable diapers may have the respective waist regions placed in a state of compression one with another between opposed surfaces of said package;

each of said diapers comprises a liquid-pervious topsheet facing a wearer's body, a liquid-impervious backsheet facing away from said wearer's body and a liquid-absorbent core interposed between said topsheet and backsheet and extending between said front and rear waist regions;

each of said diapers, including the respective liquid-absorbent core, is folded at both lateral portions of said crotch region's bottom along a pair of fold-guiding lines which do not intersect each other, each of said fold guiding lines bifurcating from a transversely middle zone toward higher points of said leg-hole; and

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said package contains therein

first diapers each having said waist's end portion lying on a side of said first surface of said package with respect to said crotch region's bottom, and

second diapers each having said waist's end portion lying on a side of said second surface of said package opposed to said first surface with respect to said crotch region's bottom, so that said first and second diapers are alternately placed in close contact one with another to form a row in which the number of said first diapers is substantially equal to the number of said second diapers.

2. **(currently amended)** A packaged assembly of disposable diapers, comprising a package formed of a flexible sheet substantially in a rectangular hexahedron having first through sixth surfaces, each pair of said surfaces adjacent to each other being substantially orthogonal to each other; and

a plurality of pull-on disposable diapers, each of said diapers including front and rear waist regions opposed to and connected with each other along transverse opposite lateral portions extending in a longitudinal direction in a vicinity of edges thereof so as to form a waist-hole and a pair of leg-holes, and each of said diapers having a waist's end portion forming said waist-hole and a crotch region's bottom lying below said leg-holes;

wherein

said plurality of diapers are compactly packed within said package so that said plurality of disposable diapers may have the respective waist regions placed in a state of compression one with another between opposed surfaces of said package;

each of said diapers is folded at both lateral portions of said crotch region's bottom along a pair of fold-guiding lines each bifurcating from a transversely middle zone toward higher points of said leg-hole;

said package contains therein

first diapers each having said waist's end portion lying on a side of said first surface of said package with respect to said crotch region's bottom, and

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second diapers each having said waist's end portion lying on a side of said second surface of said package opposed to said first surface with respect to said crotch region's bottom, so that said first and second diapers are alternately placed in close contact one with another to form a row in which the number of said first diapers is substantially equal to the number of said second diapers;

~~The packaged assembly according to claim 1, wherein~~

each of said diapers comprises a liquid-pervious topsheet facing a wearer's body, a liquid-impervious backsheet facing away from said wearer's body and a liquid-absorbent core interposed between said top- and backsheets and extending between said front and rear waist regions; and

each of said diapers is further provided with a pair of second fold-guiding lines extending in said transversely opposite lateral portions in said longitudinal direction immediately outside transversely opposite side edges of said core so that said diaper is folded inwardly of said diaper at said transversely opposite lateral portions along said second fold-guiding lines.

3. (previously presented) The packaged assembly according to claim 1, wherein a difference between the number of said first diapers and the number of said second diapers is in a range of 0 to  $\pm 3$ .

4. (previously presented) The packaged assembly according to claim 1, wherein said package contains therein at least two rows of said first and second diapers alternately placed in close contact one with another, said two rows being placed upon each other in a vertical direction.

5. (previously presented) The packaged assembly according to claim 1, wherein said package contains therein at least two rows of said first and second diapers alternately placed in close contact one with another, said two rows being arranged side by side.

6. (currently amended) A disposable diaper package, comprising a container and a plurality of pull-on disposable diapers contained in said container;

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each of said diapers including front and rear regions and a crotch region between said front and rear regions, and comprising a liquid-pervious topsheet, a liquid-impervious backsheet and a liquid-absorbent core interposed between said topsheet and backsheet and extending between said front and rear regions, wherein

transversely opposite lateral portions of the front and rear regions are attached to each other to form a waist hole and a pair of leg holes;

transversely opposite lateral portions of the crotch region and the liquid-absorbent core are folded inwardly of the diaper, along a pair of folding lines, respectively; and

each of said folding lines has a V shape including two sections ~~branches~~ extending from an apex a middle zone of said crotch region upwardly towards the front and rear regions, respectively, the apexes of the folding lines being spaced one from another in a transverse direction of the diaper so that the folding lines do not intersect or otherwise touch each other;

said diapers comprising first diapers having the waist holes lying adjacent a top of said container and second diapers having the waist holes lying adjacent a bottom of said container, wherein said first and second diapers are alternatingly placed one adjacent another to form at least one row of diapers in said container.

7. (previously presented) The package of claim 6, wherein said container is flexible and said diapers are stored in said container in a compressed state between opposite end surfaces of said container.

8. (previously presented) The package of claim 6, wherein said container has a shape of a substantially rectangular hexahedron having adjacent surfaces being substantially orthogonal with each other.

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9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The package of claim 6, wherein said container includes perforations defining a tear-off portion which can be torn off to form a dispensing opening for said diapers.

11. (previously presented) The package of claim 10, wherein said tear-off portion extends longitudinally in a direction between the top and bottom of said container and along a corner of said container.

12. (currently amended) The package of claim 6, wherein  
~~each of said diapers comprises a liquid pervious topsheet, a liquid impervious backsheet and a liquid absorbent core interposed between said topsheet and backsheet and extending between said front and rear regions; and~~

each of said diapers is further folded inwardly along a pair of second folding lines, each of said second folding lines extending longitudinally in the transversely opposite lateral portions of the front and rear regions and being positioned outside transversely opposite side edges of said core.

13. (previously presented) The package of claim 6, wherein a difference between a number of said first diapers and a number of said second diapers in each of said at least one row is in a range of 0 to  $\pm 3$ .

14. (previously presented) The package of claim 6, wherein said at least one row of diapers includes at least two rows of said first and second diapers alternately placed in close contact one with another, said two rows being placed one upon another in a direction between the top and bottom of said container.

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15. (previously presented) The package of claim 6, wherein said at least one row of diapers includes at least two rows of said first and second diapers alternatingly placed in close contact one with another, said two rows being arranged side by side.

16. (currently amended) A disposable diaper package, comprising a container and a plurality of disposable diapers contained in said container;

each of said diapers including front and rear regions and a crotch region between said front and rear regions, and comprising a liquid-pervious topsheet, a liquid-impervious backsheet and a liquid-absorbent core interposed between said topsheet and backsheet and extending between said front and rear regions, wherein

transversely opposite lateral portions of the crotch region and the liquid-absorbent core are folded along a pair of folding lines and tucked inwardly of the diaper; [[and]]

each of said folding lines including two sections ~~branches~~ extending from a middle zone of said crotch region upwardly towards the front and rear regions, respectively; and

each of said folding lines being completely located on one side of and spaced from a central longitudinal line of said diaper.

17. (previously presented) The package of claim 16, wherein each of said folding lines is V shaped.

18. (currently amended) A disposable diaper package, comprising a container and a plurality of disposable diapers contained in said container;

each of said diapers including front and rear regions and a crotch region between said front and rear regions, wherein

transversely opposite lateral portions of the crotch region are folded along a pair of first folding lines and tucked inwardly of the diaper;

each of said folding lines including two sections extending from a middle zone of said

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crotch region upwardly towards the front and rear regions, respectively;

~~The package of claim 16, wherein~~

each of said diapers comprises a liquid-pervious topsheet, a liquid-impervious backsheet and a liquid-absorbent core interposed between said topsheet and backsheet and extending between said front and rear regions; and

transversely opposite lateral portions of the front and rear regions of each of said diapers are folded along a pair of second folding lines and tucked inwardly of the diaper, each of said second folding lines extending longitudinally from the front to the rear regions and being positioned outside transversely opposite side edges of said core.

19. (previously presented) The package of claim 16, wherein said container is flexible and said diapers are stored in said container in a compressed state between opposite end surfaces of said container.

20. (previously presented) The package of claim 16, wherein said container includes perforations defining a tear-off portion which can be torn off to form a dispensing opening for said diapers, said tear-off portion extending longitudinally along a corner of said container.

21. (new) The package of claim 17, wherein each of said V-shaped folding lines comprises an apex from which the respective sections extend upwardly towards the front and rear regions, respectively;

the apexes of said V-shaped folding lines being positioned on opposite sides of and spaced from said central longitudinal line.